



Illinois Department of Transportation

Diversity Matters!

JUNE 2012

IDOT Announces Target Market Special Letting

The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) announced last week a special letting for the Target Market Program to provide procurement opportunities for minority owned businesses to bid as prime contractors and improve diversity in the IDOT Construction Program.

Currently, IDOT is in the process of assessing/ implementing the Illinois statute, 20 ILCS 2705/2705-600, known as the Target Market Program.

The Illinois General Assembly enacted Senate Bill 1923 and on July 2011, Governor Pat Quinn signed into law Public Act 097-0228, establishing the Target Market Program to remedy particular incidents and patterns of egregious race or gender discrimination in Transportation related contracts.

For more information on the hearings please [click here](#). As a result of Public Hearings held in December 2011, the research and findings provided by IDOT consultant, Mason Tillman and Associates, the Target Market program is limited to the Metro East/District 8 area.

For more information about the special letting, please visit <http://www.dot.il.gov/dsenv/062912/062912letg.html>.

For updates on the Target Market Program, please visit http://www.diversity.dot.illinois.gov/target_market_program.aspx.

A Glimpse Into Highway Construction Careers Program

On May 18, Dawson Technical Institute, an affiliate of the Kennedy-King City Colleges of Chicago, held a recognition luncheon for 24 graduates of the Highway Construction Careers Training Program at Chicago's South Shore Cultural Center.

As part of her keynote address at the luncheon, Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) Chief of Staff, Marva Boyd, encouraged students to "continue pursuing educational opportunities and explore a wide variety of options available in the construction and transportation industries." To date, the training program has graduated 580 trainees

from across Illinois. Of those trainees, 67 have been placed directly with highway construction contractors or the highway construction trades as apprentices. 146 graduates are employed in other industries or non-highway construction trades while they continue the application process to gain highway construction related jobs. 39 graduates have chosen to continue their education within the community college system.

IDOT and the Federal Highway Administration founded the Highway Construction Careers Training Program in 2009 to increase access to highway construction training and em-

ployment opportunities for underutilized minorities, women and disadvantaged individuals. The training program curriculum consists of an eight-week course of hands-on training designed to impart critical math and construction skills necessary for graduates to succeed in the workplace. Currently, the program is offered at 10 community colleges throughout the state. Each community college provides graduates with assistance in obtaining placement in Illinois' highway construction trade unions, apprenticeship programs or with IDOT highway construction contractors.

Tuskegee Airmen of Chicago Receive Spirit of Flight Award

The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) is proud to recognize the Chicago "DODO" Chapter of the Tuskegee Airmen Inc., recipients of the Spirit of Flight Award for their outstanding contribution to aviation in Illinois.

IDOT is among multiple aviation organizations that serve on the Illinois Aviation Hall of Fame Committee. Each year the committee selects the winner of the Spirit of Flight Award for induction into the Illinois Aviation Hall of Fame. Election to the Illinois Aviation Hall of Fame is the highest honor that can be attained by people whose principal aviation activity and experience is Illinois based.

It is awarded to people of

good character for their excellence over a period of time, a deserving honor for the Tuskegee Airmen.

The legendary Tuskegee Airmen of World War II were dedicated, determined young men who enlisted to become America's first black military aviators. The Chicago "DODO" Chapter of Tuskegee Airmen Inc. had its origin in 1945 near the end of World War II. The originating members were Chicagoans of the 477th Bomber group. Prior to being separated from the Air Corps, they formed an organization with about 20 members to perpetuate the friendships and camaraderie which had sustained them through the war years. The name, "DODO", was symbolically

adopted by the founders of this Chapter to publicly, whimsically and regretfully denote their status as henceforth no-longer flying ex-Air-Corps-Flyers. The Chicago "DODO" Chapter is a not-for-profit organization that makes public information appearances, offers scholarships to deserving high school seniors, and free introductory flights in conjunction with the EAA Young Eagles Program. The program began in 1994, and has provided more than 10,000 Young Eagles flights. For more information about the Tuskegee Airmen, please visit <http://www.tuskegeeairmen.org/> or www.taichicago.org website for the Chicago "DODO" Chapter of the Tuskegee Airmen.

Questions /Comments: DOT.Diversity@illinois.gov

Notice of June Letting

The Illinois Department of Transportation is preparing for the June letting, which is scheduled for June 15, 2012.

With more than \$337 million in road construction projects anticipated for the June letting, the 2012 construction sea-

son is shaping up to be a busy one. For more information, visit <http://www.dot.il.gov/desenv/delett.html>.

Mississippi River Bridge Project Snapshot

One of the goals of the Mississippi River Bridge (MRB) project is to create a diverse job site contractor workforce of

the people physically working on the project. For the week of May 20, 2012, there was an overall workforce of 28.6%

African-American, 3.3% female, and 30.2% minorities on the MRB. For more information, visit

IDOT Honored for Its Successful Disability Employment Program

The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) was recently honored for promoting its groundbreaking disability opportunities program.

The Illinois Department of Human Rights Director Rocco J. Claps and the Illinois Department of Human Services Secretary Michelle R.B. Saddler recently presented IDOT with a series of awards from the Interagency Committee on Employees with Disabilities.

Chief of Staff Marva Boyd along with Lawrence Parrish, Deputy Chief Counsel for the Bureau of Civil Rights, accepted the honors on behalf of IDOT. Boyd, in accepting the award, challenged the Department to "do even more with disability hiring in this upcoming fiscal year." IDOT employees Vance Arnold and David Dailey were individually recognized for their outstanding achievements in improving the status of people with dis-

abilities.

The Interagency Committee on Employees with Disabilities represents the interests of more than 3,000 employees with disabilities in state government.

The awards program promotes independence, access, and opportunities for employees with disabilities. For more information, please visit www.state.il.us/iced.

IDOT Welcomes Chinese Dignitaries

Chinese dignitaries from the provinces of Zhejiang and Liaoning received an unprecedented welcome during a recent visit to the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT).

About 40 Chinese dignitaries from various governmental roles (mostly at policy making levels) spent an afternoon at IDOT as part of an educational exchange. The group is in Illinois for a year at the request of their governmental organiza-

tions to attend the Illinois Institute of Technology for a Master's Degree in Public Administration.

Top IDOT officials shared information about various topics including legislative affairs, technology, safety and engineering.

"Visits from Chinese dignitaries are of particular interest because the Chinese and American systems are so different

while the actual transportation problems are so similar," said Geno Koehler, Policy and Safety Manager at IDOT. "The Department is always looking for ways to share relevant transportation knowledge and resources across borders that can help benefit Illinois to compete in the global economy."

This was not the first time IDOT has hosted international guests. Among the list are previous visitors from China, Japan, Poland, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan.

Upcoming Events

Date	Event	Location	Contact
6/4	Helping and Hiring Our Hometown Heroes 10:00-2:00pm	Edward Hines Jr. VA Hospital 5000 South 5 th Ave., Hines, IL 60141	Darren Evans Darren.evans@illinois.gov
6/6	Glen Carbon Veterans Job Fair 9:30-12:00 pm	American Legion Post 365 1022 Vandalia (Rte 159), Collinsville, IL 62234	Sally Killian Sally.killian@illinois.gov

To view a complete schedule of employment and business opportunities, including workshops offered by the Office of Business and Workforce Diversity, please visit http://www.diversity.dot.illinois.gov/event_calendar.aspx.

IDOT Announces Current Openings for Bids

The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) announces current procurement opportunities open for bid. To find a full list of opportunities, potential vendors can visit the Illinois Procurement Bulletin at www.purchase.state.il.us.